

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the patentability of all of the claims of the above referenced patent application is solicited in view of the above amendments and the following comments. In the outstanding action, the examiner has indicated all claims remaining in the application, except for claims 11 and 31, are allowable. In reviewing the allowed claims, it has become apparent that some editorial modifications will place these claims in better condition for United States patent practice. Therefore, some of these allowed claims have been amended herein. As noted, these amendments are editorial in nature and do not represent any changes in the scope or content of these allowed claims nor do they present any prohibited new matter. It is therefore urged that these amendments be entered and the allowance of these claims continued.

In the outstanding action, the examiner has continued to reject the patentability of claims 11 and 31 as being unpatentably obvious in view of the disclosures of the cited LaJoie et al. (USP 5,850,218) and Ohkura et al. (USP 6,005,601) patents. This rejection is respectfully traversed. In this regard, the examiner is urged to consider the above amendments to these claims as well as the following remarks.

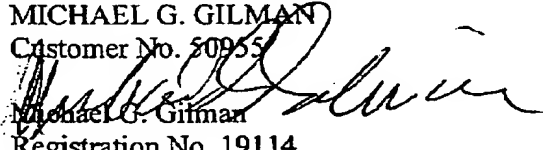
The Examiner has asserted that two attributes in Fig. 16 of LaJoie can be selected from among all program information attributes. However, that is not correct. The two-dimensional table shown in Fig. 16 of LaJoie includes a vertical axis of channels (see KMEX 123, CNN 124, KCBS 2 and so on) and a horizontal axis of time (see 4:00pm, 4:30pm and 5:00pm). Fig. 16 shows this particular combination of two attributes, channel and time, only. In other words, Fig. 16 does not show or suggest other combinations of two attributes.

On the other hand, according to the present invention, any of various combinations of two attributes, selected from among all of the attributes, may be selectable as shown in Figs. 3A to 6B of the instant application. Fig. 7 shows such various combinations by the marks "o". To make clear and to further distinguish the present invention from the prior art, claim 11 has been amended to include the provision that the entire area of the rectangular program table display is occupied by the two axis attributes that have been selected from among all of the available program information attributes. This is distinct from the disclosure of the reference because the

reference only discloses one specific combination of attributes whereas the instant claimed invention provides for a selection of any two program information attributes. This step of selection is simply not shown in the LaJoie et al. reference alone or in combination with the disclosure of the cited Ohkura et al. reference.

In order to expedite the prosecution of this application, claim 31 that is dependent from amended claim 11, has been amended to require that one of the selected attributes is the user's taste. This is shown in Fig. 17B and Fig. 43 (see "MY TASTE" in these figures) and disclosed in the portion of the specification related to Fig. 17B. The "user's taste" attribute is for collecting those channels or programs that the user has indicated that he wishes to watch. More specifically, when the user prefers to watch certain types of programming, such as for example action films or documentaries, then programs of that kind are identified and collected, and shown in the program table. In the example of Fig. 17B, a program entitled "EDUCATION SCIENCE EYE" of channel NHK EDUCATION, and a program titled "WORLD OF VOD" of channel TBS are shown as such user's taste. None of the prior art references discloses that there is such an attribute as "user's taste", and therefore, the invention now defined by amended claim 31 is patentably distinguished over the prior art.

As discussed in the above, the features of amended claims are not disclosed or suggested by any of the cited references, and therefore, in addition to the claims already allowed by the examiner, claims 11 and 31 are also patentable over the prior art. Reconsideration and an early allowance of this application are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW OFFICES OF
MICHAEL G. GILMAN
Customer No. 50955

Michael G. Gilman
Registration No. 19114

5522 Riva Ridge Drive
Wesley Chapel, FL 33544
Voice 813 991 98901
FAX 813 907 8396
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